
Education Committee

HB 2125

Brief Description: Providing rental housing for certain certificated and classified public school employees.

Sponsors: Representatives Miloscia, O'Brien, Sells, Skinner, Pedersen, Hankins, Goodman, Darneille, Rolfes, Ericks, Appleton, Santos and Ormsby.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows school districts to renovate surplus school buildings to be used as rental housing for full-time teachers and classified school staff.

Hearing Date: 2/20/07

Staff: Andrew Colvin (786-7304).

Background:

Some school districts around the country have experienced difficulty attracting and retaining teachers due to a lack of affordable housing in the area of the district. In response, various programs have been set up to assist teachers with the cost of housing. Such programs have included housing subsidies, monthly stipends, and agreements with apartment companies for discounts in rent.

School districts in Washington are authorized to rent, lease, or allow the occasional use of surplus real property owned by the district. Moneys derived from such use shall be deposited in the district's general fund to cover costs associated with the rental, lease, or use of the property, or in the district's capital projects and/or debt service fund.

Legislation enacted in 2004 allows Shaw Island School District to use money from its capital budget or general fund to construct teachers' cottages. Upon completion, teachers may rent the cottages from the district.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

School districts are authorized to renovate or convert district-owned surplus buildings into rental housing for teachers and staff of the district. Space permitting, such housing may also be made available to teachers and staff of other districts. School districts may contract with nonprofit or for-profit organizations for the renovation, maintenance, and management of the rental housing. Districts are encouraged to collaborate with community-based nonprofit organizations with experience in such areas.

School districts that offer rental housing under this act must develop a fair and objective selection process for approving tenants. The rental amount for each unit shall be set by the district's board of directors. Districts providing housing must report annually to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development regarding use of the district's housing program.

Housing provided under this act shall not be considered a fringe benefit or included as salary when actual average salaries of certified instruction staff.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.